

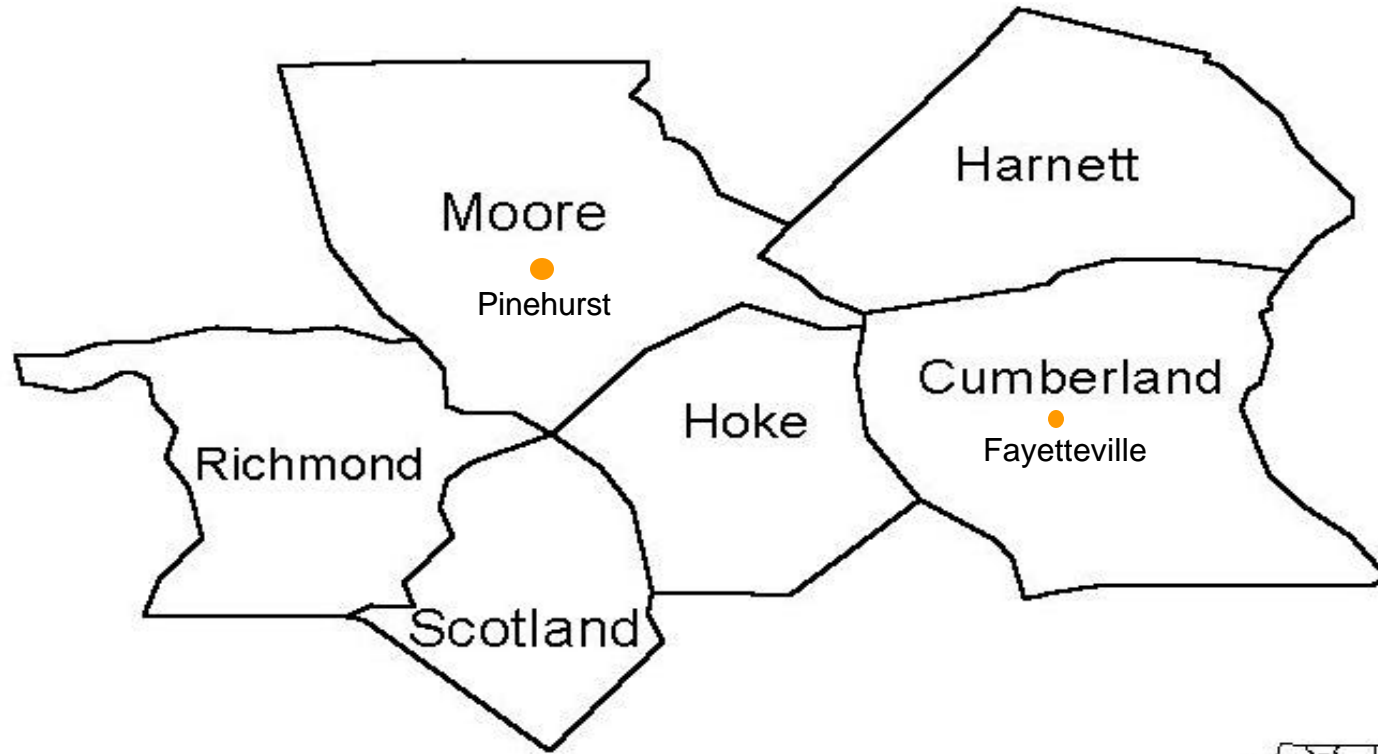


US Fish and Wildlife Service

***North Carolina Sandhills
Private Lands
Initiative***



North Carolina Sandhills





Endangered Species in NC Sandhills

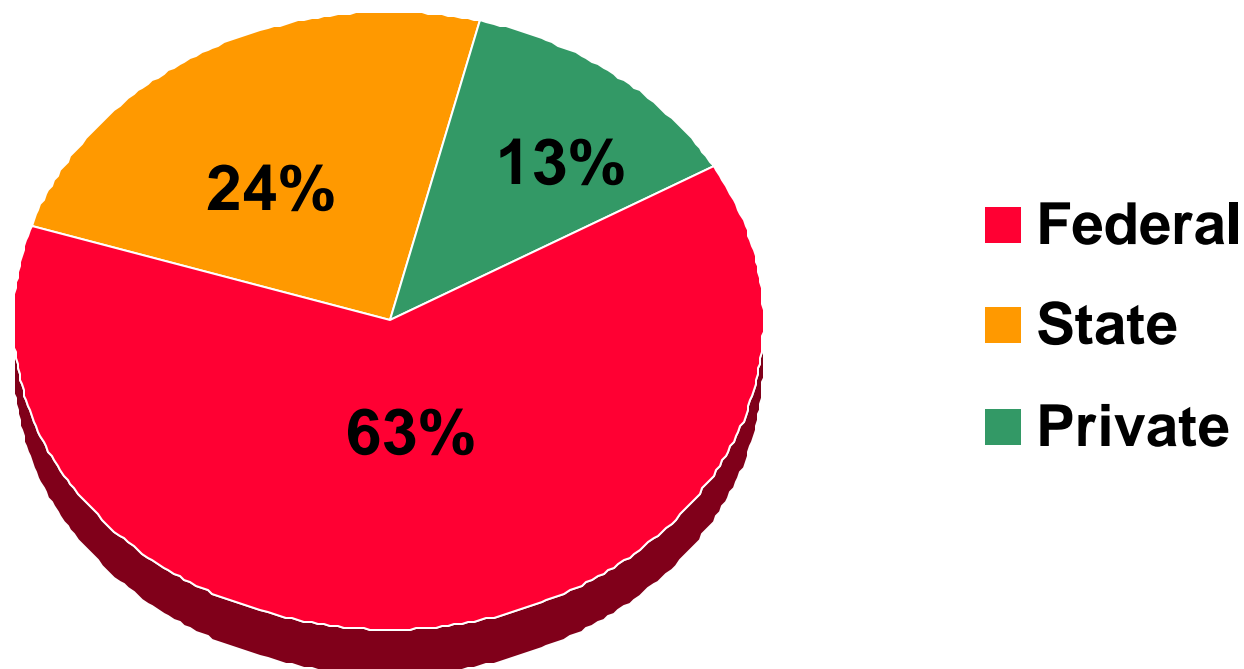
- u Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- u Rough-leaved loosestrife
- u Michaux's sumac
- u American chaffseed
- u St. Francis satyr *

* Found only on Fort Bragg



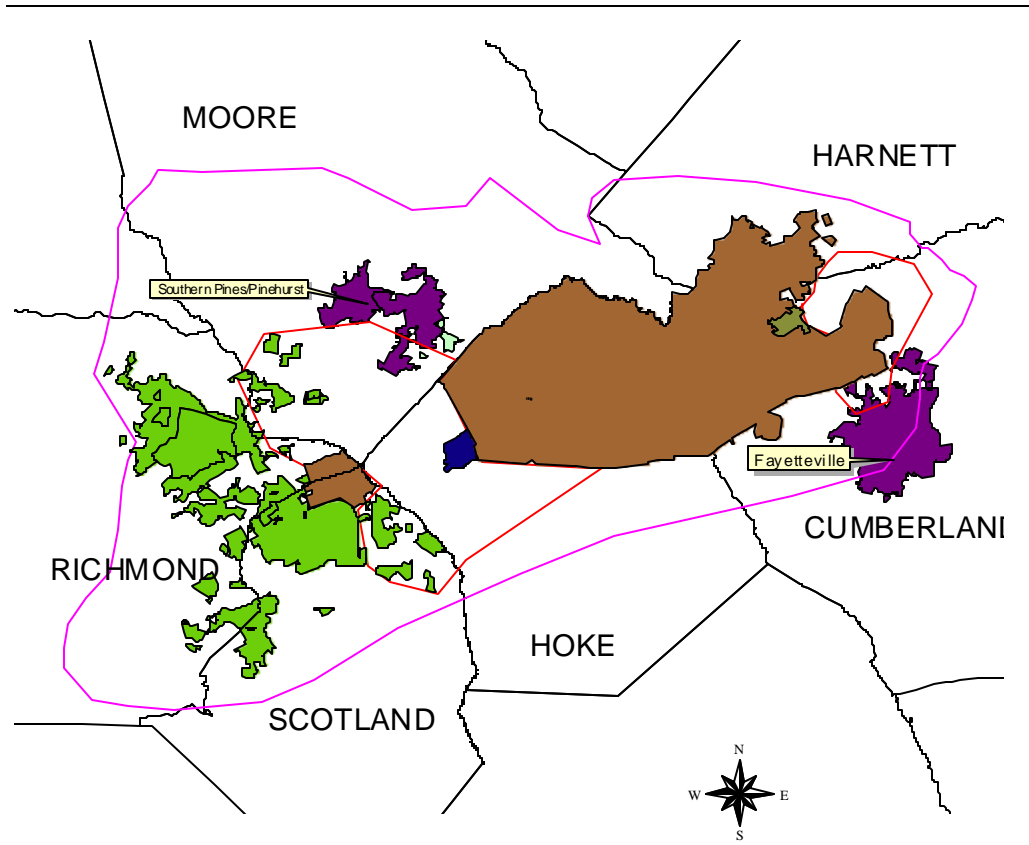


NC Sandhills RCW Population Distribution: Importance of Private Lands to Recovery





Major Public Landholdings



Ownership	# Acres
 Fort Bragg	167,300
 Pope AFB	2,000
 Sandhills Game Lands	62,000
 Weymouth Woods	80
 NCDA McCain Tract	2,300
TOTAL	234,400





RCW Recovery Issues

- u Full burden for Recovery is on Federal landowners (Section 7 of ESA)***
- u Fort Bragg is the primary Federal entity managing land in NC Sandhills***
- u Conflict existed between Fort Bragg's mission to train troops and their requirement to manage for endangered species recovery.***





Threats to Longleaf Pine Habitat on Private Lands

Conversion to
Agriculture

Fire
Suppression



Short-Rotation
Forestry



Commercial
Development





From Confrontation to Collaboration: PLI

- U 1992 Army & USFWS Co-host 2 day RCW Conference**
- U 1993 Sandhills RCW Working Group**
- U 1994 Sandhills Office Established**
- U 1995 NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program**
- U 1996 Army - TNC Cooperative Agreement**





NC Sandhills PLI Partners



**North Carolina
Sandhills
Field Station**

+



Fort Bragg

+



**Army
Environmental
Center**

+

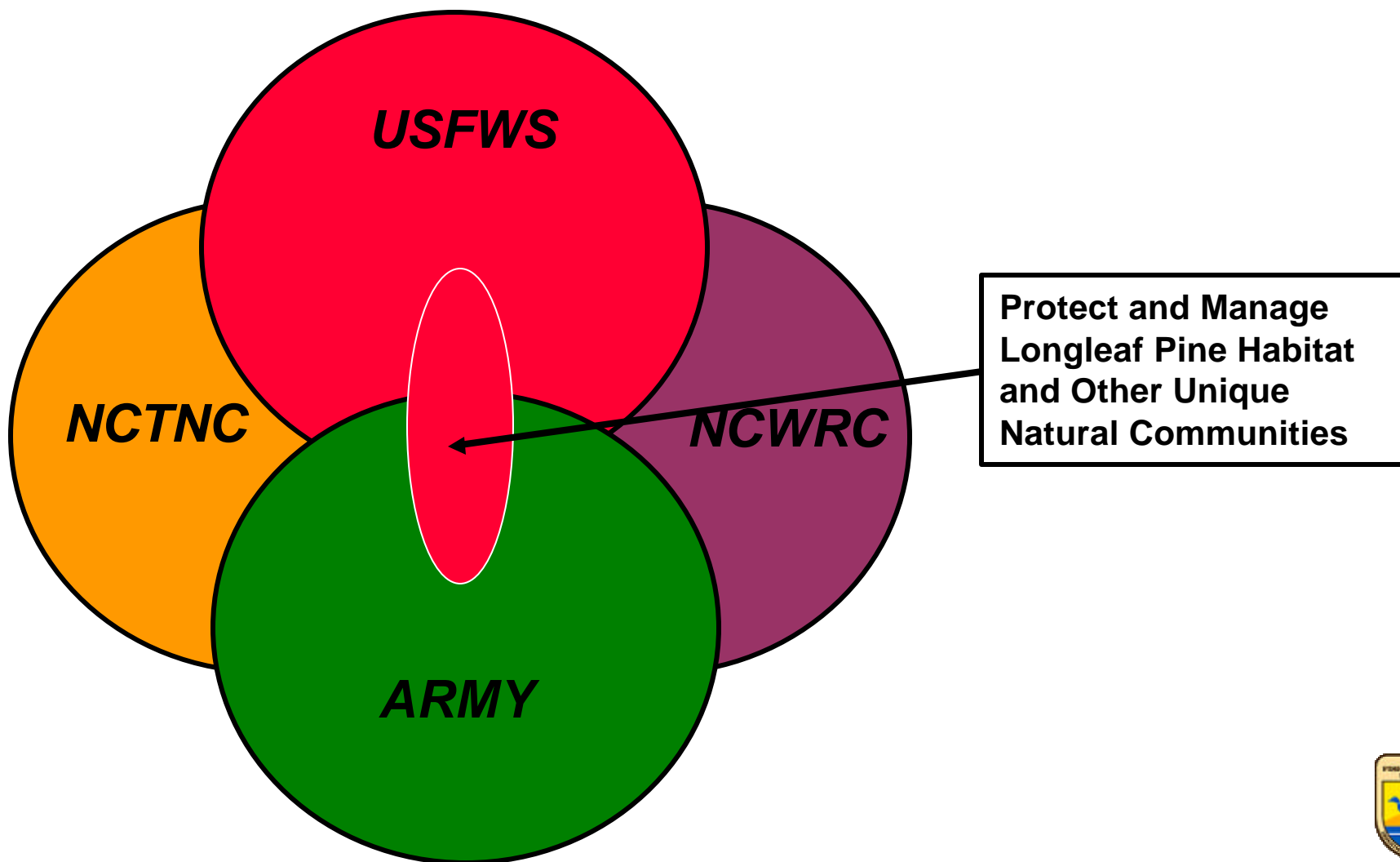
*The
Nature
Conservancy®*
Saving the Last Great Places

**North Carolina
Chapter**





Mission Compatibility Among Partners





FWS Contribution to PLI: RCW Habitat Enhancement on Private Lands

- u NC Sandhills RCW Safe Harbor HCP***
- u Local FWS office provides staff support to implement AEC/TNC Cooperative Agreement.***





Private Landowner's Opinion of Endangered Species Before Safe Harbor – “*Not on my Land!*”





The NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program Today

- u *Permit issued 1995*** to USFWS
- u *48 landowners enrolled*** to date
protecting habitat for 49 groups of RCW's
on 34,593 acres of private lands.





Facts about the NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program

u FWS ESA Landowner Assistance Funds allocated for longleaf pine and RCW habitat restoration/management on private lands enrolled in NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program:

❖ <i>FWS Coop. Agreement w/ local NGO</i>	<i>\$109,940</i>
❖ <i>13 Landowner Agreements</i>	<i>\$109,637</i>
❖ <i>Total</i>	<i>\$219,577</i>





FWS Challenges under PLI

- u Secure adequate start-up funding to implement Safe Harbor Program.
- u “Sell” the idea to private landowners – overcoming trust issues with the “Feds”.
- u Document benefits of the program.
- u Secure long-term funding to sustain Safe Harbor.





How FWS Overcame the Challenges

- u Start-up funding supplied by the Army to support NC Sandhills Field Station.
- u Dedicated on-the-ground outreach to landowners to build trust in FWS.
- u Proof of concept: monitor progress of RCW groups on enrolled lands. Three new groups established as a result of the program.





PLI: Lessons Learned

- U** Partnerships are an effective means to launch new programs in a cost-effective manner.
- U** Adequate annual funding is crucial to the success of the program.
- U** The Safe Harbor Program is an excellent vehicle to build trust between the FWS and private landowners. This new trust may result in a higher level of conservation protection on key private lands in the future.
- U** PLI cannot recover the RCW alone. An ecosystem approach to habitat management is needed. Compatible habitat management is required on both public and private lands to achieve recovery.



North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership

***Integrating Natural Resource Conservation and
Management on Public and Private Lands***



A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, there is a field of dry grass and some green plants. In the background, a line of trees is visible, with bright orange and yellow flames burning at their base. The smoke is thick and grey. Overlaid on the image is a quote in white, italicized text.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

Aldo Leopold